

PART 6 – Exhibit B

OVERVIEW OF AREA OF OPERATION

A. AREA OF OPERATION & LEGISLATED PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF AREA OF OPERATION

Lake Berryessa is a water storage reservoir located in northeastern Napa County; among the hilly-to-steep slopes of the California Coast Range. It is only a 1 ½-hour drive from Sacramento, just a 2½-hour drive from the San Francisco Bay metropolitan area, and a 1-hour drive from Napa, the county seat of Napa County. Lake Berryessa has a capacity of 1,602,000 acre-feet before it begins to pour through the Morning Glory Spillway (Glory Hole) which is the funnel-shaped outlet that allows water to bypass the dam when it reaches capacity. At present slightly over 1.5 million people per year visit Lake Berryessa.

The other significant recreational attraction in the immediate area is the Napa Valley area nationally and internationally famous for its vineyards and wine production. Napa Valley runs parallel to Lake Berryessa approximately 15 air miles to the southwest.

The reservoir's drainage basin lies along the eastern slope of the Coast Range in Napa and Lake Counties, northwest of Solano County. Lake Berryessa is fed by Putah and Pope Creeks and their tributaries. There are few perennial tributaries in the basin, as flow in most drainages significantly diminishes or disappears by late summer. In winter months, however, runoff from rain and snow pours almost immediately into the drainages because of the lack of snowpack or significant groundwater storage in the upper watershed. Winters seldom stay cold enough to develop a snowpack, and there is little groundwater storage because porous sandstone and shale underlie the eastern shore and both ends of the lake. The western side of the lake is bounded by sedimentary and associated intrusive rocks, such as serpentine and dolomite.

In 1948, construction of Lake Berryessa was authorized as part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Solano Project. The Solano Project was initiated to control flooding and to supply water for agricultural, municipal and industrial uses. The primary project facility was the Monticello Dam, constructed on Putah Creek in 1957 (www.usbr/mp/berryessa/index.html, "Berryessa Facts").

Lake Berryessa officially became available for public recreational use in 1959, and a Public Use Plan (PUP) subsequently was prepared for Reclamation by the National Park Service (NPS). The PUP designated the initial land uses for approximately 28,916 acres of federally owned property, including 19,250 acres of surface water area.

All of the developed areas for visitors at Lake Berryessa are on the West Shore. The East Shore is completely undeveloped and there is no intention to develop facilities in that area with the exception of an eventual trail that will go around the lake. Even along the developed west shore there are large tracts of land that are not developed, much of it accessible only from the lake via a boat. Lake Berryessa has outstanding vistas of natural areas mostly without any noticeable residential or private development when observed from the lake surface or lakeshore.

B. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS AND AREA JURISDICTION

Lake Berryessa operates under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. The area has concurrent jurisdiction with the State of California and Napa County. Law enforcement within the area administered by Reclamation at Lake Berryessa is conducted by the Napa County Sheriffs Department. Reclamation does not have direct authority to conduct law enforcement. These county officers enforce both Federal and State law pursuant to the Assimilative Crimes Act of June 25, 1948. Also, local and State law enforcement officers may enter the area to enforce local and State law. Fire protection is initially provided by the California Department of Forestry. The concessionaire will be required to support these activities, as described in the operating plan and other parts of the contract and exhibits.

Public health codes are prescribed by the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), and inspections will be conducted in accordance with model codes issued by USPHS. USPHS or other local and state health agencies will inspect and supervise the operation of the area's water supply and sewage disposal systems. It will also inspect food service operations. Plans for food service facilities will require approval of Reclamation, in consultation with county officials and/or the USPHS. The county will also inspect concession restaurant operations on a schedule determined by the county. USPHS or the county also reviews plans and drawings for appropriate health and safety requirements.

Applicable building codes include Napa County codes or the applicable national codes that have been adopted as Reclamation standards, whichever sets a higher standard. Plans must be reviewed and approved by the Napa County Planning Department and associated fees must be paid. The county will approve plans only if they are in conformance with applicable codes. Higher standards required by Reclamation will be part of Reclamation's Concessions Review Program. No construction may be undertaken unless Reclamation has issued a letter or permit to proceed and has formally approved the proposed plans (See Exhibit H regarding Capital Facility Improvement Program requirements).

Although concession operations are conducted on Federal property, the Concessionaire is subject to State and local laws and ordinances just as if it operated off Federal property. Accordingly, the concessionaire is normally required to obtain local and/or county business permits and to pay local and/or county taxes.

C. AREA MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Lake Berryessa is located within the Central California Area Office of the Mid-Pacific Region of the Bureau of Reclamation. The Regional Director has overall authority for all projects within the region and has delegated authority to the Area Manager for operations within the Central California Area Office.

Line of Authority:

Regional Director	Kirk Rodgers
Area Manager	Mike Finnegan
Deputy Area Manager	Richard Johnson
Recreation Division Chief	Pete Lucero
Park Manager	Janet Rogers
Lead Concession Specialist	Daniel Kolda
Concession Specialist	Patty Blackwell
Concession Specialist	Lynne Matthias

At the minimum Reclamation will update this list annually to address changes in personnel.

Typically most contract issues will be managed from the local Reclamation office at Lake Berryessa by the Park Manager. On occasion, more complex issues and concerns may be managed at the Area Office with the Recreation Chief or the Area Manager.

To the extent practicable, Government and commercial recreation operations at Lake Berryessa will be developed, implemented, and managed on an integrated, lake-wide basis to (1) provide the widest practical spectrum of recreation experience for the visiting public, (2) preserve and protect natural resources in and around the lake, (3) promote the safety and security of people and facilities, (4) support the economic goals of surrounding communities, especially gateway communities, and (5) maintain the opportunity for a fair and reasonable profit by concession contractors.

All Government and commercial recreation operations at Lake Berryessa will be managed on an adaptive basis to address and contend with new, evolving, or unforeseen circumstances. Such circumstances may include, but are not necessarily limited to, (1) development, modification, or adjustment of

operational methods and procedures; (2) periods of high or specialized public visitation including national holidays or tournaments or other organized events; (3) public safety issues; and (4) environmental and natural resource preservation and protection.

Reclamation will sponsor a regular forum with the opportunity for public involvement to promote communication, thoughtful consideration of interests, consistency and uniformity, and constructive resolution of problems or conflicts. In addition, the Area Manager or his/her designee will meet on a regular basis with concession contractors to coordinate Governmental and concession operations and to jointly address operational issues.

D. AREA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Lake Berryessa offers a variety of habitats that support a diversity of flora and fauna. Not all of these species are native to this area, having been brought in by settlers, farmers, recreational visitors, and even by wildlife. These non-native species, or exotics, often have some positive effects for humans, but may have detrimental effects on native species. Native plants and animals often cannot compete for food, water, and other resources with some of these sometimes fast growing and highly adaptable exotics. An example is the exotic wild oat grass that out-competes the native bunch grasses by spreading out and taking in water more effectively than the natives endangering the survival of the oat grass. There are also wild hogs in the area accidentally introduced when they escaped from domestic farms, and purposefully introduced by some property owners for game hunting. They have a beneficial effect for these human uses, but cause extensive ground disturbance and out-compete some native species for food and habitat as they root up large areas searching for food.

Reclamation strives to keep exotic species under control at Lake Berryessa and participates in region-wide planning and management groups to keep exotic species from invading this area. Some of these efforts include restoration projects such as creating wetland native plant areas; eradication of exotics like arundo and tamarisk; providing protected nesting areas for bald eagles, osprey, and other threatened birds. Reclamation also provides public education to inform and educate visitors regarding exotic species such as the New Zealand mud snail from being introduced here. Reclamation works to protect and promote a healthy, balanced ecosystem that will be sustainable for many generations to come providing healthy water and enjoyable experiences for all Lake Berryessa users.

E. AREA INTERPRETIVE THEMES AND GOALS

“Our lives depend on natural resources.” This broad, overarching theme allows connections to be made between cultural, historical, and the present day use of natural resources. The Lake Berryessa Interpretive Plan seeks to explore Native

American and early settler cultures as well as the development of the reservoir. Interpretive exhibits relating to the natural and cultural history of the area will generate awareness of distinctive plants and animals, geographic features, and the impact of humans, past and present.

The overall theme statement may be refined into “sub-themes”, specific to each exhibit. The following is a list of exhibits planned by Reclamation. Each will have a theme, goals and objectives and some displays. These are described in detail in the Visitor Exhibit Design Plan.

- Native American Exhibit
- Early Settler Exhibit
- Dam Exhibit
- Natural History Exhibit

F. AREA PLANNING DOCUMENTS AND PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

The list below includes the primary guiding documents used at Lake Berryessa for the management of recreation and resource related activities. This list is not complete. All of these documents can be found on the Lake Berryessa Prospectus website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/berryessa/prospectus.html>.

Public Use Plan – 1959
Reservoir Area Management Plan – 1992
Recreation Facility Design Guidelines – 2002
Final EIS – 2005
Record of Decision – 2006
Reclamation Sign Manual - 2007

G. AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Certain government operated dispersed day use areas are being developed as a part of the Record of Decision and Reservoir Area Management Plan, Steele Canyon Cove, Olive Orchard, Eticeura, Camp Berryessa, and Markley Turnouts will be improved by the government to provide additional recreation opportunities. Any improvements in these areas should not have a direct affect on the concessionaire(s).

The operation of all concession areas will be impacted by the transition from the current concession operations to the eventual new operations proposed by successful bidders. Disruption due to rehabilitation of areas formerly committed to long-term trailer use and construction of new public facilities will be a factor until such work is complete. To the extent possible the new concessionaire(s) will

need to devise procedures that protect the public from these activities if any type of business is to be conducted during this transition period.

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